I HAD SO MANY THINGS TO ASK HIM,
LIKE WHY MOM LEFT WITHOUT US,

TAKE THIS.
WHAT IS IT...
RATTLE
I JUST BARELY MANAGED TO FIND IT AT THE MARKET ON THE WAY HOME.
RATTLE
WHAT ON EARTH...
MEOW?

...NOTHING.

STEP

STEP

BUT I JUST COULDN'T BRING MYSELF TO ASK HIM.

THERE YOU ARE, EUNSOL!
WHY DID YOU LEAVE WITHOUT US?
GRANDMA AND GRANDPA WERE REALLY MAD.
THAT'S WHY YOU LOOKED WORRIED WHEN I SAW YOUR FACE
DON'T WORRY, WE'LL GO BACK AGAIN SOON.
I MADE A BIG MISTAKE AND IT UPSET YOUR GRANDMA AND GRANDPA
...HONEY.

YES...?

MEOW...?

A CAT....?

WHAT...
WHAT IS THIS...?
WHY WOULD YOU GET ME A CAT...?

I REALIZED EARLY THIS MORNING WHEN YOU LEFT BY YOURSELF..
DID YOU... DO IT YOURSELF?

THIS CAN'T BE...

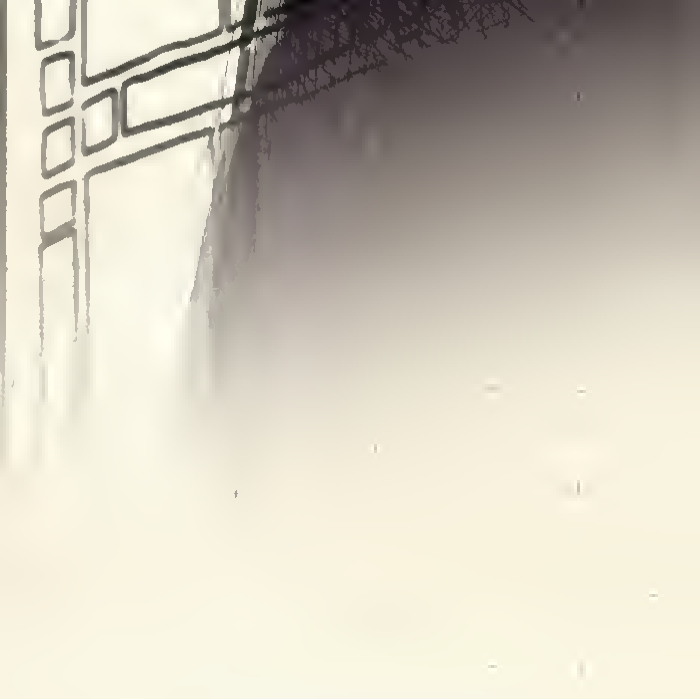
EUNSOL!
WHERE ARE
YOU!!!!

SO HE'S KNOWN ABOUT EVERYTHING ALL ALONG?

EUNSOL...?!

M-MOM?

WHY.. ARE
THERE TWO OF ME?



THE VAULT OF HORROR:
A COLLECTION OF NIGHTMARES

A TALE OF CAT AND MOUSE

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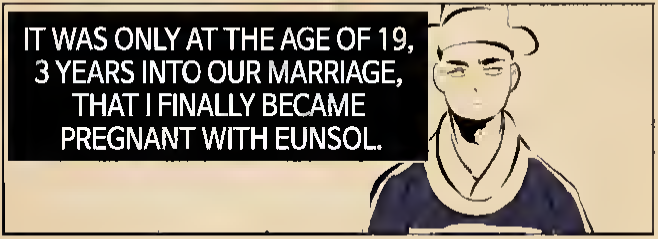
10 YEARS AGO,

I MARRIED MY HUSBAND MANSEOK WHEN I WAS 16 YEARS OLD.
OUR PARENTS HAD ALREADY ARRANGED THE MARRIAGE SINCE THE TIME WE WERE BORN.



MY HUSBAND MANSEOK

HAS ALWAYS BEEN A ROUGH PERSON AND WOULD LEAVE THE HOUSE FOR 10 DAYS AT A TIME WITH NO NOTICE, BRINGING ALL KINDS OF TROUBLE WITH HIM WHEN HE'D RETURN.

I WAS LONELY.

I WAS ESSENTIALLY LIVING ALONE,
AWAY FROM MY PARENTS, AT SUCH A YOUNG AGE.

I COULDN'T GO HOME,
AND I COULDN'T TELL MY PARENTS ABOUT IT
SINCE I DIDN'T WANT THEM TO WORRY ABOUT ME.

I WAS SO ANXIOUS

EVERY TIME MANSEOK CAME HOME,
I WAS SO UNCOMFORTABLE SINCE I HAD NO IDEA
WHERE HE HAD BEEN OR WHAT HE HAD DONE.
I WAS ALWAYS ANXIOUSLY AWAITING HIS RETURN.

IT WAS TORTURE.

THE ONLY THING I COULD DO...

WAS TO PRAY...

PRAY ..

EVERY TIME I SAW HIM,
I WAS REMINDED OF HOW TERRIBLY HE BEHAVED
AND WAS DISAPPOINTED IN HIM.

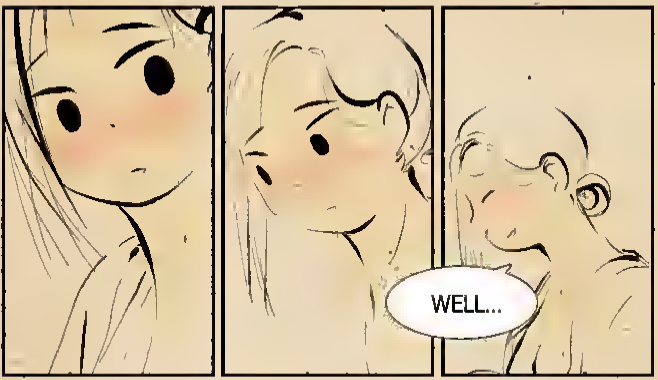
SO MY BEING PREGNANT WITH EUNSOL WAS
BOTH A BLESSING AND A CAUSE FOR WORRY.

THAT MY HUSBAND WOULD SEE HOW BADLY
HE WAS BEHAVING AND CORRECT HIMSELF.

AND,
ABOUT A MONTH AFTER EUNSOL WAS BORN, I WAS ON MY WAY HOME
WHEN I MET A MONK ON THE PATH WHO NEEDED SOMEONE TO BREASTFEED A CHILD.
THANK YOU.
NO PROBLEM AT ALL, SIR.
AS A TOKEN OF THANKS, I'D LIKE TO HEAR YOUR STORY.

HE'S NOT AN EVIL MAN.
HE'S JUST NOT BEHAVING THE WAY A PROPER HUSBAND SHOULD.
WELL THEN,

WHAT IS
THE GREATEST TROUBLE
ON YOUR MIND RIGHT
NOW?



I GUESS I'D JUST
REALLY LIKE MY HUSBAND
TO BEHAVE BETTER.

WHEN YOUR HUSBAND COMES HOME, CUT HIS FINGERNAILS AND TOENAILS AND TOSS THEM INTO YOUR BACKYARD BEFORE YOU GO TO SLEEP, AND LEAVE THE DOOR OPEN AROUND THE SIZE OF YOUR FIST.

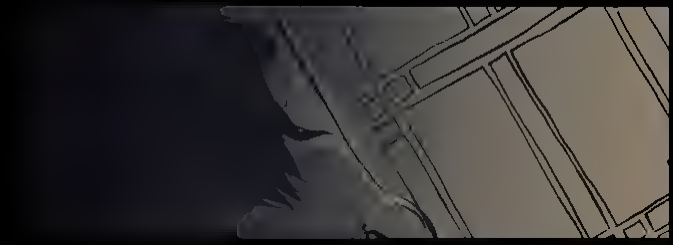
HIS NAILS?

GULP
YES. THEN EVERYTHING WILL BE AS YOU WANT IT TO BE.

I HAD NO IDEA WHAT
HE WAS TALKING ABOUT,
BUT I FIGURED I HAD NOTHING
TO LOSE SO I DID EXACTLY AS HE SAID AND
CUT MY HUSBAND'S NAILS, TOSSED THEM
OUT BACK AND THEN LEFT THE
FRONT DOOR SLIGHTLY OPEN.

THAT NIGHT, I HAD A VERY STRANGE DREAM.

IN MY DREAM, A BLACK MOUSE
AND A WHITE MOUSE CAME OUT
OF MY HUSBAND'S NOSE,



THEN RAN OUTSIDE
AND ATE MY HUSBAND'S NAILS...

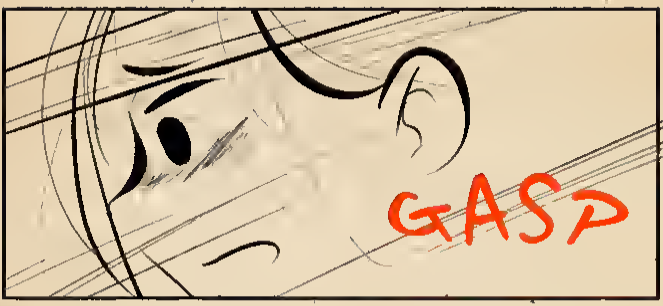
I TRIED TO STAY AS QUIET AS POSSIBLE SO THAT I COULD WATCH THE MICE WITHOUT THEM HEARING ME,

BUT ONCE THEY HAD FINISHED EATING THE NAILS, THEY RUSHED BACK INTO THE HOUSE AND RAN STRAIGHT BACK INTO MY HUSBAND'S NOSE.

I WAS TRULY SHOCKED BY THE DREAM, BUT WHEN I AWOKE,
WHAT I SAW ALMOST GAVE ME A HEART ATTACK.

THERE WERE TWO OF MY HUSBAND.

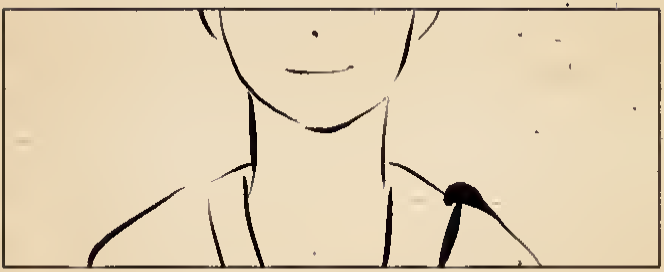
BEFORE MY EYES



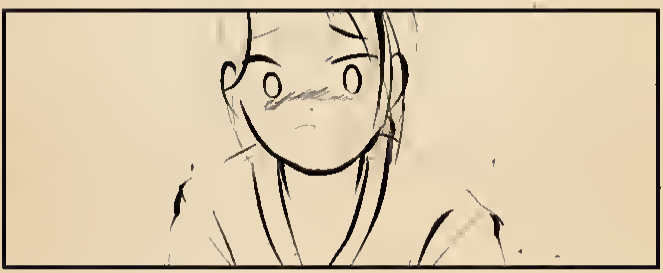
I WAS COMPLETELY OUT OF MY MIND.

WHEN I CALMED
MYSELF DOWN A BIT,
I WENT TO THE SPOT WHERE
I HAD MET THE MONK.

AND AMAZINGLY, AS IF HE HAD BEEN WAITING
FOR ME, HE WAS SITTING IN EXACTLY THE SAME SPOT.



HE SMILED IN A WAY LIKE HE
ALREADY KNEW WHAT WAS GOING ON,

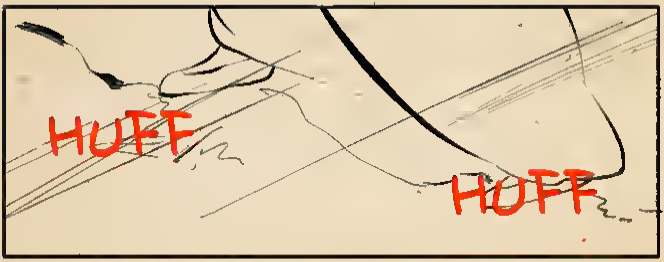


AND TOLD ME:

"TO GET THE PERSON YOU
HOPE, CATCH A WILD CAT; TO KEEP WHAT YOU
ALREADY HAVE, CATCH A BLACK CAT."

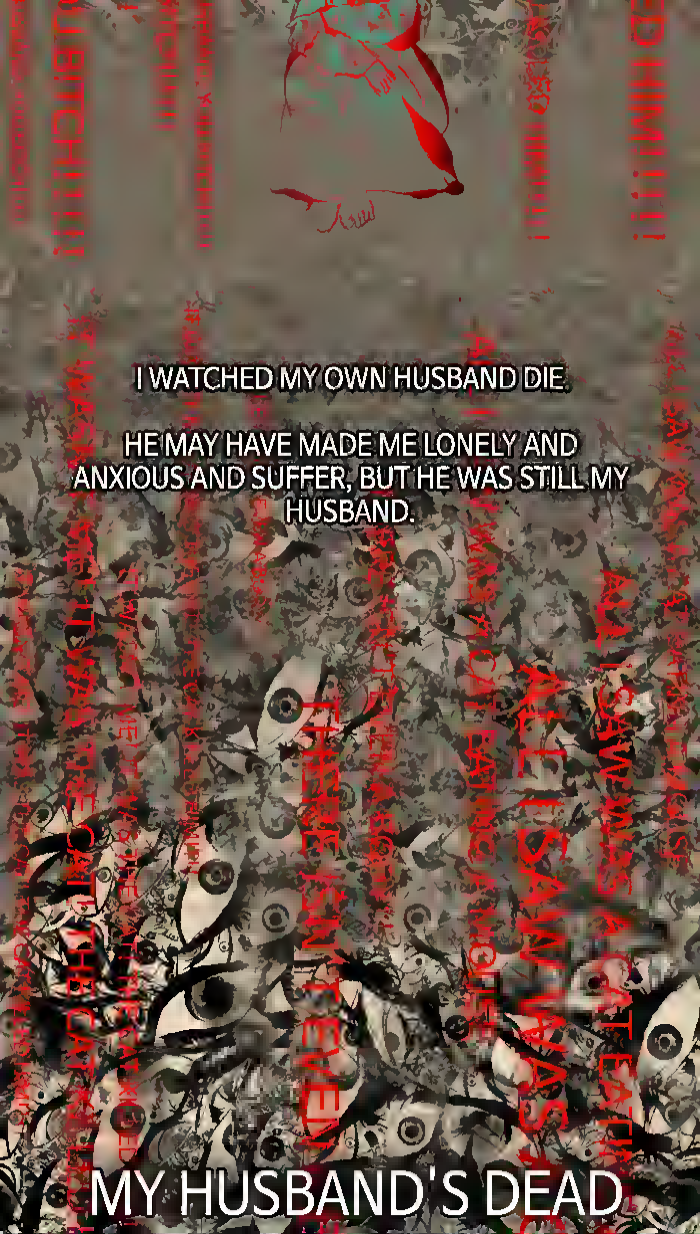
WHEN THE CAT RAN AT ONE HUSBAND,
HE TURNED INTO A MOUSE AND WAS
DEVOURED BY THE CAT.

I WAS STUNNED.
IT ALL FELT LIKE A DREAM.



I DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO THINK ABOUT WHAT HE MEANT. I IMMEDIATELY RUSHED OFF TO FIND A WILD CAT.

AND FROM THAT DAY ON IS
WHEN THE NIGHTMARES BEGAN.
I DREAMT THAT THERE WERE
MILLIONS OF EYES STARING AT ME
I FELT AN OVERWHELMING
SENSE OF GUILT.


I WATCHED MY OWN HUSBAND DIE.
HE MAY HAVE MADE ME LONELY AND ANXIOUS AND SUFFER, BUT HE WAS STILL MY HUSBAND.
MY HUSBAND'S DEAD

ALL I SAW WAS A CAT EATING A MOUSE

I KILLED HIM

THEN,
THE MAN WHO'S MY CURRENT HUSBAND
SAW ME CRYING AND CAME OVER TO ME.

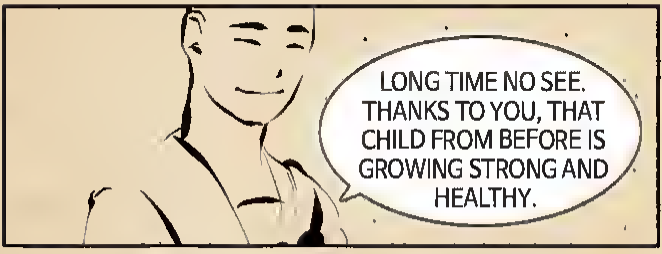
HE WAS THE REMAINING ONE OF THE TWO

THIS HUSBAND WAS VERY THOUGHTFUL. HE SQUEEZED MY HAND AND WHISPERED TO ME THAT EVERYTHING WOULD BE ALRIGHT.

I FINALLY HAD THE HAPPY FAMILY I HAD DREAMT OF. THERE WAS NO DOUBT- FROM HIS APPEARANCE TO HIS VOICE, EVERYTHING ABOUT HIM WAS MY HUSBAND.

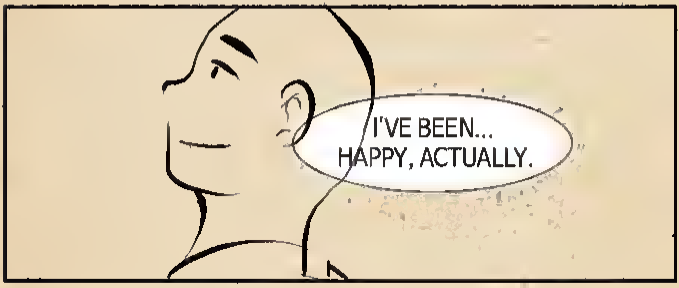
AND SO I FORGOT ABOUT THAT DAY.

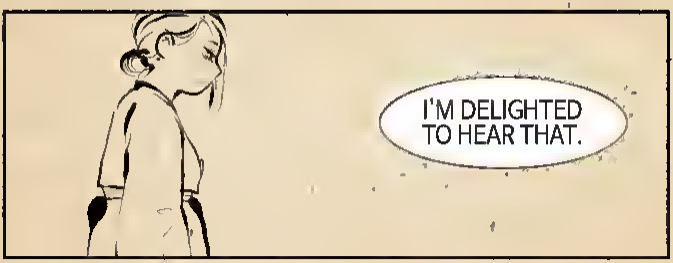
TO BE PRECISE,

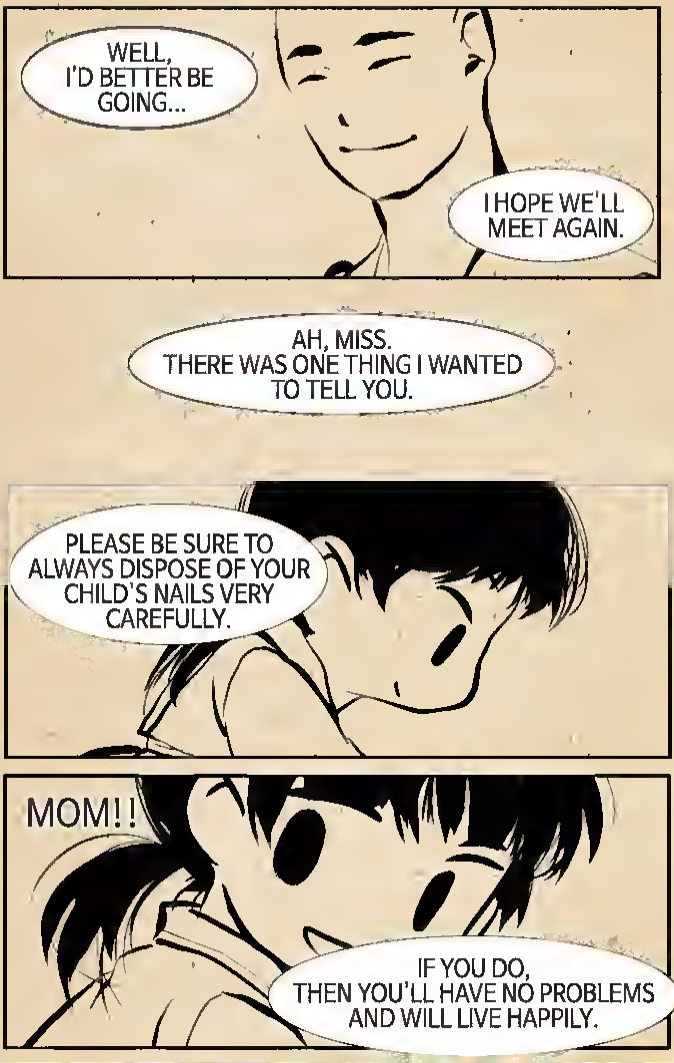


I WAS RUNNING AWAY FROM "THAT DAY."

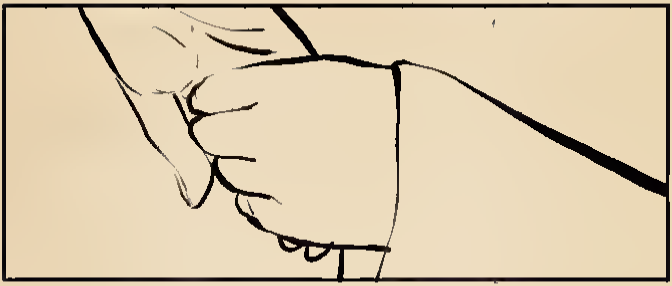
UNTIL I MET THAT MONK AGAIN,



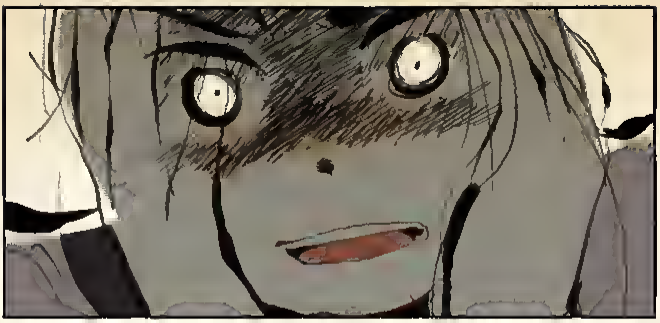



WELL, I'D BETTER BE GOING...
I HOPE WE'LL MEET AGAIN.
AH, MISS. THERE WAS ONE THING I WANTED TO TELL YOU.
PLEASE BE SURE TO ALWAYS DISPOSE OF YOUR CHILD'S NAILS VERY CAREFULLY.
MOM!!
IF YOU DO, THEN YOU'LL HAVE NO PROBLEMS AND WILL LIVE HAPPILY.

SINCE ONLY
YOU AND I KNOW ABOUT
"THAT DAY."



SO

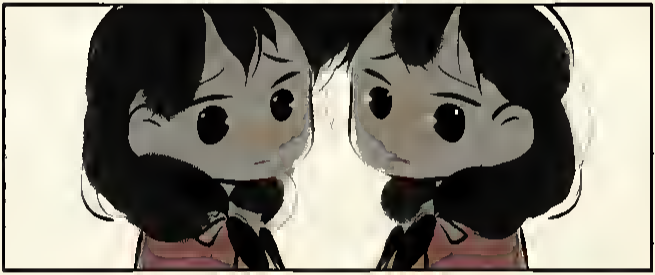


SO!!!

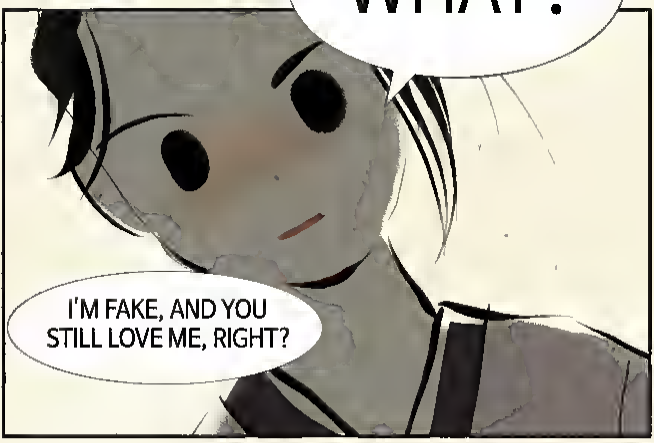
UNTIL NOW I'D BEEN SO CAREFUL
TO DO AS HE SAID, BUT NOW EVERYTHING'S RUINED.

WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN? YOU'VE GOT TO LET THE CAT LOOSE.
BUT I DON'T KNOW WHICH ONE IS THE REAL EUNSOL!!!!!



WHAT DOES IT MATTER?
WHAT?



AREN'T YOU HAPPIER?

AH...

NO...

IT'S STARTED AGAIN.

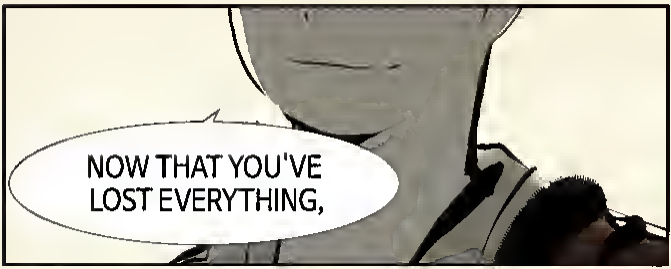
MEOW
TSK TSK...

MEOW

I TOLD YOU,
YOU'VE GOT TO BE VERY CAREFUL ABOUT WHERE YOU THROW HER NAILS OUT.

YOU'VE BROUGHT
THIS UPON YOURSELF.

WELL,


NOW THAT YOU'VE
LOST EVERYTHING,

THE VAULT OF HORROR:
A COLLECTION OF NIGHTMARES

A TALE OF CAT AND MOUSE

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